

E 'Specially' DECS

A weekly email update from the Division of Exceptional Children Services to Directors of Special Education on current issues, information and events.  
August 25, 2004 - Volume 1, Number 17

Question of the Week:

Where can I find the mandated number of times that parents must be contacted

before conducting an ARC?

No number is mandated in the law. 707 KAR 1:340 requires only that the LEA

send "a written notice" to the parents regarding the meeting. However, 707

KAR 1:320 Section 4(6) sets forth efforts that the LEA must demonstrate if

it meets without a parent in attendance at the ARC. It states that the LEA

"shall have a record of its attempts" (more than one) "to arrange a mutually agreed on time and place." The regulation states that this may

include detailed records of phone calls, copies of correspondence, and detailed records of visits to the home or place of work.

A "reasonableness" standard is generally appropriate in situations such as

this, where no number is specified by the regulation. What is reasonable

may depend on the facts. A follow-up written notice to the parent may be

appropriate. If the parent does not read, contacts by phone or in-person

visits may be reasonable. No matter the method utilized, the district must

document efforts as well as the number of efforts, in order to adhere to the

law.

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The Question of the Week will be an on-going feature of E 'Specially' DECS.

If you have a special education question that you believe would be of general interest to other Directors of Special Education, email your suggestion to Sammie Lambert at [slambert@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:slambert@kde.state.ky.us)

This Week at DECS - KCMP

This is the time of year that DECS consultants are contacting school districts to verify information submitted on the District's KCMP Reporting

Document. After the KCMP reviews are finished this week (on August 27), the

DECS staff will be using the results of the review as part of the process

for selecting districts for on-site verification visits. Five districts will be chosen for on-site visits based on a variety of factors (for example, the gap between special education and general education scores on CATS assessments, and KCMP results). Three districts will be chosen at random and two districts that are exemplary will also be visited.

The DECS' on-site visits will occur during Fall 2004. The verification visit may be part of a Coordinated Technical Assistance visit by KDE, if other KDE federal program offices have concerns about a school district. Or DECS may be conducting visits with DECS staff only, if the district is not slated for an on-site Coordinated Technical Assistance visit.

Contact Information for E 'Specially' DECS

- Sammie Lambert at [slambert@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:slambert@kde.state.ky.us) for information on newsletter content.

- Chris Thacker at 502 564-4738 for technical difficulties in receiving E 'Specially' DECS.

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Forwarding of E 'Specially' DECS is not only allowed, it is encouraged. Please send to staff in your district that may be able to benefit from this information.